

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A stapler comprising:

a strike out passage, that a staple is supplied thereto, for guiding the staple to sheets to be bound, wherein the staple is formed with a pair of staple legs ~~formed to fold~~ to bend in right angle from both ends of a crown portion, the staple legs having a base portion nearest to the crown portion and a distal end portion opposite from the base portion;

a driver plate for striking out the staple supplied into the strike out passage to the sheets;

a clincher mechanism arranged to be opposed to the driver plate for ~~folding to bend~~ bending the staple ~~leg~~ legs penetrated through the sheets along a rear face of the sheets; and

a guide member with substantially parallel lateral sides for supporting [a] an inner side surface of [a] the base portion of the staple ~~leg~~ legs ~~from an inner side of the staple~~ during a process that the staple ~~leg~~ legs of the staple ~~is~~ are penetrating the sheets.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The stapler according to Claim 1, wherein the guide member includes a guide piece disposed in the strike out passage and having an inclined face continuously formed to the guide piece; and

wherein the guide member is moved in a direction of ~~escaping~~ discharge from the strike out passage by bringing the inclined face into contact with the crown portion of the staple.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A cartridge containing a number of staples to be mounted in a stapler,

wherein the stapler comprises a driver plate for striking out the staple supplied into the strike out passage to the sheets, and a clincher mechanism arranged to be opposed to the driver plate for ~~folding to bend~~ bending the staple ~~leg~~ legs penetrated through the sheets along a rear face of the sheets, the staple legs having a base portion nearest to a crown portion and a distal end portion opposite from the base portion,

wherein the cartridge includes a strike out passage, supplied with the staple formed with a pair of staple legs ~~formed to fold and bend~~ in a right angle from both ends of [a] the crown portion and for guiding the staple to sheets to be bound, arranged at a front end face of the cartridge, and a guide member,

wherein the guide member with substantially parallel lateral sides for supporting ~~a side~~ an inner surface of [a] the base portion of the staple ~~leg~~ legs ~~from an inner side of the staple~~ during a process that the staple ~~leg is~~ legs are penetrating the sheets.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The cartridge according to Claim 3, wherein the guide member is integrally molded ~~to be single piece~~ with the cartridge.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The cartridge according to Claim 3, wherein the guide member includes a guide piece disposed in the strike out passage and having an inclined face continuously formed to the guide piece; and

wherein the guide member is moved in a direction of ~~escaping~~ discharge from the strike out passage by bringing the inclined face into contact with the crown portion of the staple.

Claim 6 (New): The stapler according to claim 1, wherein the inner surface is a surface of the base portion of the staple leg opposed to another staple leg.

Claim 7 (New): The cartridge according to claim 3, wherein the inner surface is a surface of the base portion of the staple leg opposed to another staple leg.